

**Table 3-17: Number of Climbers and Mountaineers
Registering for Backcountry Use Besides on Mount McKinley**

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Avg.
Mount Crosson	0	8	26	5	12	42	46	20
Mount Foraker	15	8	24	7	22	52	40	24
Mount Hunter	34	23	55	37	52	59	39	42
Mount Huntington	26	20	7	8	13	20	14	15
Mooses Tooth	12	15	30	24	14	23	52	24
Peak 11,300'	8	7	2	2	4	4	19	7
Silverthrone	20	8	0	0	0	5	3	5
Other Destinations	46	66	107	104	146	199	361	147
Total Mountaineering Use except McKinley	161	155	251	187	263	404	574	285

Source: Denali National Park and Preserve Climber Database

and rescue services, current route and weather information, and communication. The air taxi concessions have personnel at the 7,200-foot base camp to coordinate flight activity.

- Search and Rescue

The majority of mountaineering rescues occur above 14,000 feet, due in large part to the effects of altitude on the human body, extreme wind velocity, and severe cold. For a simple rescue operation between 14,000-17,000 feet, 6-8 acclimatized personnel are needed. According to data from 2000 and 2001, these 6-8 member rescue teams are composed of one NPS permanent ranger position, one NPS seasonal ranger position, and 4-6 volunteers.

The NPS contracted Lama helicopter is a specialized tool that allows trained staff to minimize risk when performing rescue missions at high altitude. When accidents occur in locations that warrant an air evacuation, the Lama is used to bring rescuers to the scene with a shorthaul technique or by landing on the mountain. Patients are typically evacuated to the 7,200-foot ranger camp. Once stabilized, patients are transported to Anchorage hospitals by military or civilian aircraft, or a hospital's air ambulance helicopters.



NPS rangers practice short haul rescue techniques. NPS photo

Conditions that may warrant rescue generally include acute mountain sickness (AMS), high-altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE), high-altitude cerebral edema (HACE), frostbite, climbing falls, and crevasse falls. It is the policy of Denali National Park and Preserve to assist those in need, when it is necessary, appropriate, within the reasonable skill and technical capability of park personnel, and provides searchers and rescuers with a reasonable margin of safety (Mountaineering: Denali National Park and Preserve, 1994). To minimize the need for rescues, the park encourages self-reliance, preventive education, and user preparation. In 2001 there were 11 major search and rescue incidents, costing the NPS \$56,137. Since 1995 the park has averaged about 11 major search and rescue missions per year.

- Guided Mountaineering Expeditions

Part of the total mountaineering activity includes guided mountaineering. In 2001, there were six National Park Service permitted mountaineering concessioners that could offer expeditions on Mount McKinley and other peaks in the "Old Park" portion of Denali National Park and Preserve,